

Fuel for Thought

The 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore.

July 2003

Vol. 1, Issue 4

939th Maintenance culture “Can do – Will do – Safely”

By: Major Anthony R. Baity

When I took command in January 2003, we were still the Logistics Group; we were still the 939th Rescue Wing; we were concerned about the Reduction in Force (RIF); and we were continuing to learn our new weapons system (the KC-135R Aircraft). Going thru a conversion can be and is a challenging time for a unit. I have a first-hand account of the stresses and difficulties a conversion can bring upon a unit when I was appointed the Maintenance Conversion Project Officer for a conversion from KC-135A models to KC-135Rs at Griffiss AFB, NY in 1991. We are all aware that Portland not only had a conversion; but also had a Chief of Staff Logistics Review (CLR) Wing Reorganization simultaneously. These combined changes have drastically affected the structure, organization, and traditional working relationships within the maintenance complex; which made Portland's conversion exceedingly more complicated.

Although complex and filled with challenges; I have great news: Portland's Maintenance can do the new mission, will do the new mission, safely; while maintaining high standards. I am particularly proud of the accomplishments of the personnel in the Maintenance Group over the past 5 months. We have accomplished our first Isochronal (ISO) Inspection in May. Outstanding teamwork between the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Maintenance Squadron and the Maintenance Operation Flight resulted in the first flight after ISO returning Alpha One (for you non-maintenance types, that's "nothing wrong"). We had our first two-week aircraft surge in June. The week prior to the beginning of surge week, the Wing had flown 10 scheduled sorties without a cancellation. During the surge week, that consecutive sortie record was pushed to 30 sorties flown without a maintenance cancellation. We are researching maintenance records to establish if this achievement may be a Wing record.

Simply an excellent outcome if you take into account that the surge was accomplished with only three aircraft. The surge gave us many challenges to overcome. One was the Maintenance Group's version of "musical chairs". We removed and replaced the Landing Gear Horn between three aircraft at least 8 times in 3 days to complete the mission. This was another example of superb teamwork shown within the Maintenance Group.

The Maintenance Group has also worked closely with the Operations Group and the Mission Support Group. In order for the 939th ARW to succeed, we must work hand-in-hand to ensure that the lines of communications stay open. Last month, the 939th ARW flew over 1000 flying hours in the KC-135R. This feat couldn't have been achieved without the cooperation and teamwork between

the three groups and outstanding leadership from the Wing. Portland has the right leadership and attitude in the personnel to make the 939th the best Reserve Wing within Air Force Reserve Command. I challenge each of you to continue to "raise the bar" on mission performance and positive attitudes. The Maintenance Group "Can Do, Will Do, the mission safely.



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus

Major Tony Baity is the 939th MXG/CC and was commissioned thru the ROTC program at Mississippi State University in May 1984 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He served as an acquisition project officer at Wright Patterson AFB, OH and aircraft maintenance officer at Griffiss AFB, NY on B-52H and KC-135 aircraft while on active duty. Major Baity separated from active duty in Oct 94. In June 1997, Major Baity joined the Air Force Reserve and served as a Traditional Reserve Maintenance Officer at Barksdale AFB, LA on B-52H and A-10 aircraft. He became an Air Reserve Technician in May 1999 and served as a Maintenance Squadron Commander at Barksdale AFB, LA. Prior to Portland, Major Baity served as the Chief, Aircraft Specialist Branch, Headquarter Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC), Robins Air Force Base, Georgia from Mar 2001 to Feb 2003.

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SMSgt. Jackson retires twice

SMSgt. Melvin Jackson, longtime member of the wing military personnel office, achieved something unusual on June 25. He retired from the same job twice in the same month.

Jackson began his career in 1961 when he signed up for active duty. Discharged in 1969, he lived life as a civilian until 1983 when he became an Air National Guard Technician. In 1985 he switched from the ANG to the Reserve as an Air Reserve Technician, a position he filled until he retired last month.

Jackson has been filling the same desk as both a reservist and a civilian employee.

"I spent the entire time in CBPO/MPF," he said.

Regulations call for retirement at 33-years of service or at 60-years of age. "The birthday (June 25, 1943) got me," he said. "Now I'm going to learn what it's like to be unemployed." He plans to play golf, go fishing, do some gardening and to play with his 1977 Datsun Z.

Jackson's home is in Vancouver, so he says he will be around from time-to-time to brag about his travels.



Senior Master Sergeant (Retired) Melvin Jackson

Presented at June's UTA

Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt. Dale B. Barrett	939MXS
SMSgt. Cynthia D. Sarrazin	939MDS
MSgt. Susan J. Murry	939WG/JA
TSgt. Debra R. Day	939MDS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Jeffrey L. MacRander	304RQS
2Lt. Kelli A. Bowen	939MSS
MSgt. Keith A. Barber	939MXS
TSgt. John W. Brownfield	939MSS
TSgt. William E. Cote	939MSS
TSgt. Bradley A. Crow	939MSS
TSgt. Scott R. Leety	939MSS
TSgt. Robert L. Luster, Jr.	939MSS
SSgt. Noranne Hamilton	939MSS
SSgt. Paul V. Persson	939MSS
SrA. Tracy A. Thiesfeld	939MSS

Air Force Achievement Medal

LtCol. Brian D. Calkins	939RQW
1Lt. Laura M. Mancuso	939MXS
MSgt. David S. Armstrong	304RQS
MSgt. Don D. Frank	939OG
MSgt. Jerald P. Kohn	939MOF
MSgt. Raymond Melendez	304RQS
MSgt. Donald C. Schulte	304RQS
MSgt. Christian F. Piepgrass	939MSS
TSgt. Brian A. Bjerkelund	939MSS
TSgt. Phillip R. Ek	939MXS
TSgt. Cynthia D. Houston	304RQS
TSgt. Scott M. Light	303RQS
TSgt. Roger S. Watson	939MXS
SSgt. Chad L. Chapman	939LSS
SSgt. Jennifer A. Feigion	939MDS
SSgt. Benjamin C. Giles	83APS
SSgt. Ryan E. Morris	303RQS
SSgt. Todd R. Reed	939MSS

Fuel for Thought

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939 ARW Commander

Col. Mark A. Kyle

Chief of Public Affairs

Maj. Karen Magnus

Public Affairs Specialist/Editor/Admin

Roger A. Edwards

Congratulations



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. Mark Kyle,
939ARW
Commander,
presents SMSgt.
Terri Murdock
with the Senior
NCO of the Year
Award for 2002
during the June
UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

CMSgt. Cathy
Sevier, Chief of
Personnel
Programs,
Personnel Office,
presents Marilyn
Dorn with the
Chief's Award for
Outstanding
Support during the
June UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. Mark Kyle,
939ARW
Commander,
presents MSgt.
Scott Peace with
the NCO of the
Year Award for
2002 during the
June UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

CMSgt. Rex
Dingman of the
83rd APS,
presents MSgt.
George Winslow
with the Chief's
Award during the
June UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. Mark Kyle,
939ARW
Commander,
presents SrA
Christine
Baerwald with the
Airman of the Year
Award for 2002
during the June
UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

CMSgt. Ian
Nesbit of the
304th RQS,
presents the
Chief's Award to
SrA Christine
Baerwald during
the June UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

CMSgt. Moe
Savoie of the
939th MXS,
presents TSgt.
Christopher Soden
with the Chief's
Award for
Outstanding
Support during the
June UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

CMSgt. Dale
Barrett, 939
ARW Command
Chief Master
Sergeant,
presents the
Chief's Award to
SMSgt. Jay
Jahangiri, First
Sergeant of the
939th
Maintenance
Squadron,
during the June
UTA.

Congratualations



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

SSgt. Connie Gaudette (promoted 1 Jul to TSgt) was re-enlisted by 2Lt. Ross Wilson, 304th Rescue Squadron, on board a C-130 during a static line jump training mission. The C-130 was out of the 79th RQS, Davis Monthan Air Force Base.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. Donald Cavin presents Letters of Appreciation for their efforts in arranging the Wing Conversion Ceremony on April 5, to LtCol Dana Difford, SSgt. Donna Chestnutt, TSgt. Ed Angle, MSgt. Gregory Thress and CMSgts. Dave Roberts and Dale Barrett.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. Donald Cavin presents the Air Force Commendation Medal to MSgt. Dan Sunderlin during the June UTA.



Official U.S. Air Force Photo



Official U.S. Air Force Photo



Official U.S. Air Force Photo

Col. Donald Cavin Presents the Meritorious Service Medal to CMSgt. Dale Barrett, Command Chief Master Sergeant, and MSgts. Gene Murray and Sue Murray (not related) during the June UTA.

Air Force chief of staff thanks Reserve for Operation Iraqi Freedom support

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, sent the following letter to Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Dear General Sherrard

The men and women of Air Force Reserve Command performed superbly during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The world witnessed joint warfighting at its best and the critical role played by well-trained and well-led airmen.

Airmen from the Reserve were pivotal to the coalition's successes in the war. Our nation's military was able to achieve rapid victory because of the dedicated service of these great citizen airmen. The loyalty and courage displayed to their nation is a model for all airmen to follow.

Please relay my sincere appreciation to all the members of your command. May God bless our great Air Force and our great nation!

**Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force chief of staff**

Defining moments make a difference

Chaplain John Crippen

Do you remember when you took your car or plane out for its very first solo journey into the world beyond? Do you remember getting caught for taking that cookie out grandma's cookie jar? (Mine, was taking a roll from the school cafeteria.) Or do you remember when you ate some exotic food like escargot (Yes!) or boiled octopus (Not even!)? For some of us, these memories either bring a smile or a moment of quiet reflection. I remember as if it were yesterday, the day that I stepped out of a C-130 to the foreign land of Lackland AFB for basic military training. I remember the day that I stepped out of the enlisted ranks to become Chaplain for the Air National Guard. I remember the day that I stepped out of the single life to ask my faithful wife of 27 years to share my disappointments and my dreams. And while these indeed have been life changing moments in my life, I am constantly amazed by the Defining Moments in my life where God has spoken to me of His Love, His Discipline, His Strength, His Direction and His Care.

In the days ahead, I want to encourage you to be open to those Defining Moments in your life whether it is on the flight line, behind the food counter, or in those precious staff meetings. Look for those Defining Moments that God is using your strengths, your talents, and your experience to make a difference in the lives of people and our country. And of course be open to those Defining Moments where you sense that God is tenderly reaching out to speak to you about your life before Him. In that moment of time you may truly realize that the task before you is indeed impos-



sible unless....unless God is at your side. I believe that God is at work in helping us through our conversion process but it is more than just a conversion process of equipment, buildings, and policies, but a conversion process of turning our hearts toward Him. May we all be open to the Defining Moments in our lives.

(Note: During the July UTA, Major Baity from the 939th Maintenance Group will be sharing during the Protestant Worship Services some of his Defining Moments.)

Duties and responsibilities of an NCO

CMSgt. Dale B. Barrett

Command Chief Master Sergeant

Serving as this Wing's Command Chief has given me several opportunities to reflect on the duties and responsibilities of the NCO corps. When you are inducted into the NCO ranks, it carries with it an obligation that you exercise additional authority and a willingness to accept greater responsibilities. It is not merely an increase in pay grade because you have been doing a great job. It is a higher accountability to be more involved in our Air Force community as a whole, in addition to elevating your resolve to support our Core Values.

If you ever have a need to "re-blue", AFI 36-2618 (The Enlisted Force Structure) is an excellent resource to reference. In my office is a stained glass window of a single Airmen's chevron. It serves as a constant reminder of the foundation that supports my role as not only an NCO, but as a SNCO. I can still sense that Drill Instructor's conviction to instill the military conduct, bearing, customs, courtesies and core values so essential to a successful career as an NCO in the military.

NCOs must take an active role in the development of their members. We as NCOs should frequent dining facilities, chapel centers, family readiness, unit advisory councils, education and training facilities, and enlisted club to possess a better understanding of opportunities and problems confronting our personnel. We need to appropriately recognize and reward those individuals whose military conduct, bearing, and performance clearly exceed established standards. Additionally, we need to take those opportunities to correct marginal or substandard behavior or duty performance.

NCOs should exercise their right and responsibility to vote the election processes. Support and participate in installation and unit activities. Membership in the enlisted club, professional, and unit organizations is strongly encouraged. Stay informed on issues and current events

concerning the military in general and the Air Force, particularly issues being brought before Congress that have an impact on you directly. You can make a difference by joining professional enlisted military organizations such as, NCOA (Non-commissioned Officers Association), AFSA (Air Force Sergeants Association), and AFA (Air Force Association).



In addition to all the responsibilities noted above, SNCOs are responsible for leadership and developing personnel under their supervision into a cohesive team. Their teams must be capable of meeting any challenge and effectively accomplishing mission requirements. They must demonstrate sincerity and genuine concern in assisting subordinates to participate in self-improvement efforts. They must ensure that technical skills and professional development acquired by their subordinates are fully utilized.

SNCOs must be alert to detect adverse morale trends and provide feedback to commanders, immediate supervisors, officers, and staff chiefs. They must devote total effort in resolving the causes of any problem before it becomes a major issue. The SNCO must take the lead in achieving, maintaining, and enforcing Air Force Standards, as well as good order and discipline.

I am proud to be a member of this great organization. I have the good fortune to travel extensively throughout our Air Force community and can attest to the fact that we have some of the best NCOs in the business. You are all to be commended for the support you provide your commanders in carrying out their vision.

Jahangiri named leadership facilitator

SMSgt. Jay Jahangiri, 939th Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant, has been selected as facilitator for the Senior NCO Leadership Course following try-outs and training at Air Force Reserve Command headquarters in May. The course, according to Kurt H. Rover, chief of the AFRC Professional Development Center, is very challenging with a selection rate of approximately 60-percent.

"I went through the leadership course in 1999," said Jahangiri, "and found it interesting and challenging. When training for facilitator opened, I put together my package and volunteered. I got selected."

Jahangiri, along with the other volunteers at Robbins AFB, went through 6-days of try-outs and training. "The first three days were basically just try-outs," he said. "Those of

us who were selected, continued on for the rest of the training."

A facilitator is not an instructor according to Jahangiri. A facilitator does not present information to the people in a class. Instead, a facilitator pulls information out of the people in the class; material that is already known but of which the students may not be consciously aware. Then, through discussion and exercises, the students are encouraged to examine the information and how it might be applied to different situations.

By the time students come to a Senior NCO Leadership Course, they are already seasoned professionals. They need only a few nudges to become the leaders the Air Force Reserve needs. "As a facilitator, I'm there to give those nudges," Jahangiri concluded.

From the JAG

Leave trophies on the battlefield

POLICY: Servicemen and women have been injured and killed in the process of gathering war trophies. Also, trophy collecting can sometimes lead to conduct that might blemish combat operations or result in the mistreatment of enemy personnel, the dishonoring of the dead, distraction from the conduct of operations, or other unbecoming activities. See, 10 USC 2579(a). These are sound reasons for the restrictive policies about war souvenirs and trophies.

PRACTICAL ADVICE: Don't bring war trophies or souvenirs back home unless you have prior, written permission. Any non-issued weapon, or parts thereof, will almost certainly be prohibited. Many non-weapons are also prohibited. Do not rely on rumors or past practices regarding items that may be approved souvenirs; practices can change over time. Consult with the AOR judge advocate and get written authorization from the Major Commander or designee before taking a war trophy home.

AFJI 31-217 was written some time ago and the approval authority language is somewhat dated. However, common sense would dictate that the approval authority for authorizing an individual to take a war trophy out of a specific AOR would be the Commander for that AOR or designee.

DEFINITIONS FROM AFJI 31-217

"War trophy" means any item of enemy public or private property utilized as war materiel (i.e., arms, military accouterments) acquired in a combat area or zone within a prescribed period of time, and authorized by the commander to be retained under the provisions of this regulation.

"Firearm" means any weapon (including a starter gun) other than an antique firearm which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device.

"War trophy firearm" means firearms of small caliber up to and including caliber .45 (or equivalent expressed in terms of other linear measure), and all gauges of shotguns, except for "firearms" prohibited by the National Firearms Act. See, AFJI 31-217, Control and Registration of War Trophies and War Trophy Firearms, Section I (4).

DO'S AND DON'TS

Generally, all property seized from enemy forces, or civilians in the AOR, is the property of the United States. Enemy material, captured or found abandoned, must be reasonably secured and turned over to appropriate United States or allied military personnel, except as expressly authorized by joint instructions and command authorities. The failure to perform this duty, or to loot or pillage or to otherwise dispose of captured or abandoned property for personal benefit, is a UCMJ offense. See, UCMJ Article 103.

- 1) AFJI 31-217 lists items that may not be

retained or introduced into the US by military members, and effectively makes those items contraband.

- 2) Weapons prohibited by National Firearms Act, regardless of the degree of serviceability (serviceable or welded-up).

CENTCOM General Order #1 is more restrictive than AFJI 31-217. It generally prohibits: (1) taking war trophies and unit war trophies, with limited exceptions; (2) taking the personal effects of deceased or living enemy soldiers (e.g., dog tags, ID cards, letters, photos, etc.); and, (3) possessing switchblades, butterfly, and spring-loaded knives, private weapons, enemy weapons, or any part of a foreign made weapons system.

Members must have a DD Form 603-1 (War Trophy registration/ Authorization) to possess war trophies. Additionally, war trophy firearms must be registered. AFJI 31-217, Section III, para 8. Finally, members need written permission from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms before shipping into the US: ammunition brass, shell casings, ammunition, projectiles, or any portion and/or parts of these items (except bulk military shipments).

CAPTURED OR ABANDONED PROPERTY GENERALLY

Operational necessity applies to the handling of captured or abandoned property in the field. Troops in the field may abandon, destroy or fail to take possession of spoils of war for valid military reasons (like to avoid the burden of transporting such property).

10 USC 2205 expressly authorizes US forces to:

Keep minor articles of personal property as war trophies, if lawfully obtained and if kept pursuant to public written authorization from the Department of Defense;

Allow allied forces to take immediate possession of certain property, solely for use during an ongoing conflict;

Abandon or return property obtained, borrowed, or requisitioned for temporary use during military operations; and, return spoils of war to previous owners from whom such property had been seized by enemy forces.

AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- a. USC 2579; 50 USC 2201-2205; UCMJ, Articles 92, 103
- b. AFJI 31-217, Control and Registration of War Trophies and War Trophy Firearms
- c. General Order #1 (CENTCOM)
- d. AF JAG Operations Law Mission Essential Task List, Wing Level (Met No. 27, Level No. 1m)
- e. Army Operations Law Handbook, 2001, https://ds.jag.af.mil/Get/File-82068/Army_Ops_Law_2001_.pdf
- f. Welcome Booklet, 363D Air Expeditionary Wing, Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, https://ds.jag.af.mil/Get/File-59701/Right_Start_Guide.doc

PJ building almost ready

Summer construction starts

by Roger Edwards

Now known as the 304th Rescue Squadron, the PJs and their teammates will be returning to their enlarged and remodeled building in building 315 within the next few weeks, as soon as the few final construction details are completed and the building accepted by Portland's Air National Guard host unit. Construction has already begun on expanded entry control parking at Overend Gate, and is about to begin on several other new facilities in the on-going construction program for Oregon's only Air Force Reserve unit.

According to Thomas Snoberger, 939th Civil Engineering Squadron facilities engineer, the wing's new mission and new aircraft require new and modified facilities. For example, the doors of hanger 310 will be modified to allow a KC-135R to remain in the hanger with the doors closed while the tail is still out in the weather. Hanger 380 faces conversion to office and storage space and hanger 375 will be enlarged to allow an entire KC-135R inside.

According to LtCol. Kenneth Lewis, Jr., 939th Operations Group commander, phase one of the combined training facility (new building 302 – directly between buildings 300

and 304) is due to start in July. The first phase, housing the command post when finished, will only be a small part of the complete building under phase II.

The construction program, which includes several new buildings, some remodeling, roadwork and an upgrade to the flightline, is scheduled for completion in 2006. According to Lewis, the parking apron is scheduled for upgrade in two phases, east and west. While the apron is being upgraded, a pipeline will be laid from the fuel storage tank area south of building 300 to the apron. "Today we truck fuel to our aircraft," said Lewis. "When both sides of the apron are ready, we'll be able to turn the pump on and fuel directly.

"This is going to be a busy place between now and about March 2006," Lewis continued. "People and offices will be shuffling in and out of assigned areas, we'll be dealing with cramped quarters and, in general, going through some growing pains."

It will be worth it. In the end, wing members will be working on a beautiful campus, well designed to support both the mission and us.



The future look of the 939ARW

The rendering above illustrates what the 939th Air Refueling Wing section of Portland's Air National Guard installation will look like when construction is completed in 2006.

Portland AAFES team busy, friendly

by Roger Edwards

There is a line in the theme song from "Cheers" that can express how you feel when you walk into the Portland AAFES store – "...they're always glad you came."

Each customer walking through the doorway can expect a cheery hello, genuine concern and helpfulness, and the assistance of the three professionals who call the store their own. "The ladies here are really jewels," said Bill Crabtree, 18-year base employee and regular AAFES customer since the store opened to state employees. "They're always real nice and really helpful."

"We always greet the customers," said Francisca Page, Palau, Micronesia native and 5-year AAFES employee. "Elaine (the store manager) wants it that way – and that's just the way we are anyway."

"We work well together," she continued. "We're a team." The three members of the team get to know their customers, especially their regulars. Stand nearby and you may hear them discussing a customer's health problems or asking with concern about a customer's spouse or children, or about the new house the customer moved into last month.

"We like to get to know our people," said Patricia Evans, 6-year AAFES employee. "Knowing a customer lets us provide better service, and it's fun."

"I've been coming out here for the last twenty-five years since I retired from the military," said one customer. "It used to be I'd only come out a few times a year. Then, when cigarettes started getting so expensive, I'd come a little more often. Now I call ahead and the ladies hold what I want so I don't make the trip for nothing."

"I really appreciate them."

It is not all customer service though. "My goal for our store is at least \$10,000 more business than the same month a year ago," said Elaine Jordan, 28-year AAFES employee and Portland store manager. "My real goal though is to do \$100,000 in business in a month."

She made it in December, reaching \$107,075 in sales. The three-woman team that is AAFES in Portland do all that needs to be done to keep their store a functioning operation. "We're called sales associates," said Evens, "but we greet our customers, stock our shelves, order the merchandise, price the merchandise, keep the store clean, and do the paperwork. Then on Tuesday we unload the truck that brings the goods from Oakland so we can start stocking again."

According to Jordan, the fastest moving merchandise is tobacco,

liquor and food. "We sell the occasional large item," she said, "but those three items keep us in business."

The store averages 140 to 190 customers on a normal day, most of them regulars. During the first ten days of the month a lot of the store's retired customers come in to do their shopping. Traditional reservists and guardsmen keep the store very busy on Unit Training Assembly weekends.

"We average \$70 to \$90-thousand in regular sales each month," said Jordan, "but we can also do special orders. A customer who sees an item at another exchange or in one of the AAFES flyers, can come to us and place an order. We'll call the large store in Tacoma, order the item and have it sent down on our regular weekly run. That way we get credit for the sale and the customer doesn't have to worry about hauling the item all that way."

When there is an urgent request, such as a desperately needed uniform item, the service is even better. "We'll find the item and have it sent via FedEx," said Jordan. "We'll have it here in two days max, and will absorb the FedEx cost."

"We want to keep our customers happy."

"We're always kind, loving, joyful and smiling," says Fran Page, AAFES Portland team member.



Fran Page (left), Store Manager Elaine Jordan (center) and Patricia Evens are the AAFES team at Portland ANG Base. Between them they have 39-years experience with AAFES, 28 of which belong to Jordan.



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus

The Air Force Reserve's 939th Air Refueling Wing participated with the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing's Young America Day 2003 on Saturday, June 21. Formerly called "Scout Day," Young America Day is a base open house designed to allow area youth groups to visit and learn more about the military and other uniformed career choices such as police and fire fighters. The wing provided a KC-135 Stratotanker static display (above) for visitors to explore. Other displays included the F-15 Eagle and exhibits from life support, munitions, the base fire department and the Oregon Army National Guard.

Spotlight: Larry Lewis

If you were watching the 10 p.m. edition of FOX News on July 1, you might have seen one of your co-workers being interviewed about foster parenting. Larry Lewis, Air Reserve Technician Technical Sergeant with the 939th Air Refueling Wing Military Personnel Flight, has a lot to say on the subject. He and his wife Kathi have been foster parents for years; caring for children who need care the most while raising their own six adopted kids.

"The Washington Children and Family Services agency referred FOX News to me as a positive example of what a foster family should be," said Lewis. "The news people were looking for a story to run counter to the disturbing news about the foster father who had molested two girls left in his care.

"My wife and I were happy for the opportunity," said Lewis. "There are a whole lot of good people out there, doing a whole lot of good things for these kids – especially the youngest ones, the ones who don't yet have a voice of their own.

"But the public only hears about the very few that have gone wrong most of the time. This was an opportunity for us to help set the record straight."

Lewis was a foster child himself when he was very young, and remembers the experience. "A kid in this situation is never at fault and is afraid and angry about it," he said. "The whole world has fallen in and taken away everything familiar and loved. My wife and I just want to provide some stability and care – we want to show them that there are people who care and will take care of them until they can get back to home and family."

Lewis's adopted children range from 7 to 14-years old and there is currently a three-month old foster child staying with them. "The baby is what's known as 'medically



TSgt. Larry Lewis

*Air Force Reserve Technician
Adoptive and Foster Parent*

1978 graduate

*John Rogers High
Spokane, Wash.*

Active Air Force 1983 – 1992

Air Force Reservist

1992 – to present

Entered ART program 1995

*Worked in CBPO for his
entire military career*

Married Kathi 1980

fragile," he said. "It's a condition that can be brought on in a lot of ways – poor pre-natal care, drug or alcohol abuse, improper nourishment, neglect. What it means is that the child needs extra care and assistance, and may need it for years."

Over the years the family has fostered more than 40 children. According to Lewis, it takes an effort from everybody to make things work. "Kathi and I are the main care takers, but the kids have to help out and, if the foster child is old enough, the child has to make an effort too.

"Mostly it's a matter of making sure there's a stable structure for the child to live within, rules and boundaries for everyone, and making the child feel like we consider him or her as much a part of the family as everyone else."

Lewis and his wife are recognized in their community for what they do. Both are state licensed foster parents and Kathi teaches training courses for those families who want to become fosters. On top of everything else, Kathi was named Washington Mom of the Year in 2001.

Welcome Back!



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus

Family, friends and members of the 939th Air Refueling Wing turned out on July 3, at Portland's International Airport, to welcome their own back from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Returnees included wing members from operations, maintenance and the command post. They are SMSgts. Richard Duke and Rodger Rau, MSgts. Steven Marx and Allen Moses, TSgt. Keith Stevens and SSgt. Robert Hudgins.



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The latest KC-135R assigned to the 939th Air Refueling Wing arrived on station Wednesday, July 2. This arrival brought the wing's growing fleet to four aircraft. Eight KC-135s will eventually be assigned.

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Education is a major benefit

One of the benefits of being a member of the Air Force Reserve are the educational opportunities available. Many reservists are eligible to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve). Reservists currently enrolled or planning to attend college should call or visit the Education Office and ask about their eligibility.

A reservist who is also a student could collect up to \$276 a month if attending college full time.

Reservists may also be eligible for Tuition Assistance and enlisted members can be reimbursed up to 100 percent of tuition. Officers are also eligible for tuition assistance with different limitations. Tuition assistance paperwork must be initiated through the Education Office and submitted to AFRC/DPTS before the first day of class for which the assistance is used. Tuition assistance will reimburse eligible reservists up to \$4,500 per year for an enlisted member and up to \$3,500 per year for officers.

One of the least used education benefits available to reservists is the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) College Credit-by-Examination Program. Under the program, reservists can take the



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SMSgt. Edward (Brad) Freeman (left) and Mr. Dave Workentine staff the Education Office.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) test for basic college credit, and DANTES and Excelsior College Exams in a large number of subjects. These exams are free to members of the Reserve, their spouses and civilian employees. They are a great way to receive college credit for what you already know and save money on the way to your degree.

Seven more PJs returned home Friday, June 27 to waiting family and friends after service in Iraq. The Vancouver Fire Department came out to welcome them as well. Shown are 2Lt. Quinton Nelson, MSgt. Jim Eddings and TSgts. Wendle Witt, Jason Songer, Todd Knoepfel, and Scott Light and their families. TSgt Ryan Morris, who also returned, is not pictured.



photo by Maj. Karen Magnus



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Recently returned from overseas, SSgt. Jonathan Edwards, 939th Maintenance, presents Col. Mark Kyle, 939th Air Refueling Wing commander, with an American Flag and certificate. The certificate reads, "Let it be known that this American Flag was proudly flown over the skies of Iraq and Kuwait for the 939th Aerial Refueling Wing. These colors were carried by the officers and men aboard "Jolly 36," a USAF HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter, on an actual combat search and rescue mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom, on April 8, 2003."